BACK TO THE OLD SOD: CHASING YOUR IRISH ANCESTORS ON THE EMERALD ISLE® Welcome

BACK TO THE OLD SOD: CHASING YOUR IRISH ANCESTORS ON THE EMERALD ISLE

Your Speaker ... Iv Rabideau

# USEFUL INFORMATION



#### +List of Handouts

- Back to the Old Sod Notes
- Griffith's Valuation Notes
- Eneclann's Short Guide to Irish Genealogical Research
- Irish Genealogy Bibliography
- Irish Web Sites
- Griffith's Survey Maps & Plans
- The Parishes of County Londonderry
- Irish Source Records, 1500s-1800s
- Irish CD-ROMs

## INTRODUCTION



- † Irish Genealogy
  - Whole New World
  - •Need To Be As Good A Genealogist As You Can Be & Even Better
  - Most Importantly You Need To Have A Little .....

# INTRODUCTION



- Must Fully Research Your Ancestor's
  - North America Background
  - Immigrant Siblings
  - Immigrant Family Members Where Ever In The World

#### INTRODUCTION



- Irish Genealogical Resources
  - Many Sources Only Available In Ireland
  - To Be Successful -- Often Requires You Utilize Sources Located In Ireland

## INTRODUCTION



- Alternatives In Accessing Records In Ireland
  - Hiring a Professional Genealogist in Ireland
  - Using the Services at a Heritage Center
  - Traveling to Ireland

# INTRODUCTION



- Going To Ireland?
- \* Be Prepared!

# INTRODUCTION



- Going To Ireland?
  - Story Of My Friend John
    - He Went to the National Archives of Ireland in Dublin
    - He Was Unaware Many Records Were Destroyed in 1922
      - Census Records, 1821-1851
      - Pre-1858 Wills & Administrations
      - More Than 50% Church of Ireland Parish Registers
    - John Left Ireland Empty Handed

# INTRODUCTION



- Prepare Before You Go
- Don't Be Like John

# INTRODUCTION



- Learn Irish Genealogical Sources & Techniques
  - Don't Be Like An Area Library That Ordered The Irish Census Microfiche Hoping To Receive The Manuscript Census Returns
  - Received Printed Statistical Reports Instead
  - Didn't Receive Manuscript Census
  - Library Staff Did Not Know About Irish Census Record Destruction

## INTRODUCTION



- Read About Irish History
  - Obtain Some Background
- Look @ My BibliographyOr Other Useful Book Lists
  - Develop A General Knowledge Of Records, Sources & Repositories

# REPOSITORIES REFERENCED



- National Archives of Ireland (NAI)
  - Dublin, Ireland
  - www.nationalarchives.ie
- National Library of Ireland (NLI)
  - Dublin, Ireland
  - www.nli.ie
- General Register Office (GRO)
  - · Dublin, Ireland
  - www.groireland.ie/

# REPOSITORIES REFERENCED



- General Register Office (GRO)
- Belfast, Northern Ireland
- www.groni.gov.uk
- Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI)
  - Belfast, Northern Ireland
  - www.proni.gov.uk
- Ulster Historical Foundation (UHF)
  - · Belfast, Northern Ireland
  - www.ancestryireland.com

# REPOSITORIES REFERENCED



- Library and Archives Canada (LAC)
  - Ottawa, Ont.
  - www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/ index-e.html

# IRISH NAMES



- Earliest Use of Surnames
  - Early Middle Ages
- Family Origins Important in Irish Society
  - Genealogy Became Important
  - Oldest Recorded Genealogies in the Western World
  - Needed to Know Who You Were Related to
  - Major Gaelic-Irish Families Date from 6<sup>th</sup> Century

## IRISH NAMES



- Varied Origins
  - Gaelic-Irish
  - Scottish Clan
  - English
  - Norman

#### IRISH NAMES



- Surnames
  - Mac = Son Of
  - •O' = Grandson Of
  - •Fitz = Son Of (Norman)

# IRISH NAMES



- Name Variations
  - Dropped Prefixes
  - Illiteracy
  - Many Synonyms

# Name Variants: Montague



# IRISH NAMES



- + Learn All You Can **About Your Surnames**
- Learn Variants of First **Names**

# IRISH NAMES



- Be Careful Names Can Be a Real Pitfall
- Always Search for Synonyms & Misspelled **Variants**

# IRISH NAMES



- Coats of Arms
  - Awarded To An Individual
  - Not Given To A Family
  - Passed Down To Oldest Son
    - Siblings Do Not Have A Coat Of Arms

#### IRISH NAMES



- Determining Location By Surname
  - Bad Technique
- Names Are Now Spread Throughout Ireland
  - Not In Original Locality
- Attempt Only With Historical Sources
- ♦ Use Only As Last Resort

# IRISH NAMES



- \* Grenham's Irish Surnames (CD-ROM)
- **†** Name Books
- **†** Check Bibliography



# What is Ireland?



- Western Most of British Isles
- Politically Divided:
  - Republic of Ireland
  - Northern Ireland
    - Part of United Kingdom

# What is Ireland?



- ♦ Size: 31,840 sq. mi.
- † 75% the Area of Michigan's Lower Peninsula

# IRISH PLACE NAMES



- Every Place In Ireland Has A Name
- Do You Know Where Your Family Is From?
- \* Knowledge of Place Is Essential
- \* How Many Know What Townlands Are?
- Check Bibliography

## JURISDICTIONS



- Determine Names Of All Jurisdictions For Your Ancestor
  - Caution Many Duplicate Names
- Different Records Created
   In Different Jurisdictions

# **JURISDICTIONS**

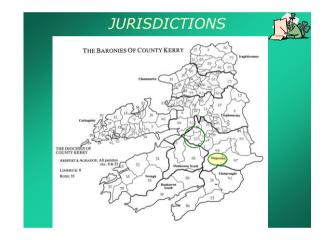


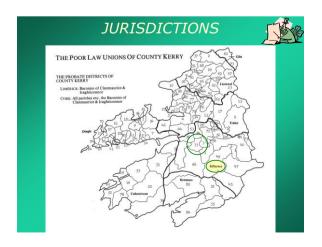
- Provinces (Historical)
- **†** Counties
- Civil Parishes
- Ecclesiastical Parishes
  - Church of Ireland Parishes
  - Roman Catholic Parishes
- Dioceses

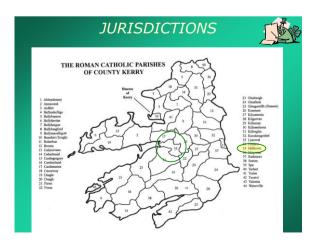
# JURISDICTIONS

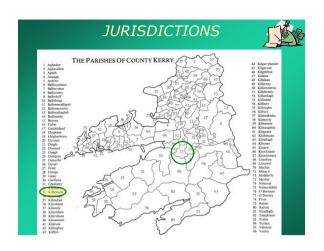


- Baronies
- **†** Poor Law Unions
- Superintendent Registrar's Districts
- Electoral Districts
- Cities & Towns









#### **JURISDICTIONS**



- **†** Townlands
  - Must Obtain This
  - It Is Their Address
- Townland Sub-Denominations

#### **JURISDICTIONS**



- **†** Townlands
  - Smallest of the governmental administrative land districts
    - Townlands are still in use today
    - Term probably derives from the Anglo-Saxon word 'toun' which means farmstead.
      - · Gaelic equivalent is Baile, anglicized as Bally
  - More than 64,000 townlands in **Ireland**

#### **JURISDICTIONS**



- Townlands
  - Varying in size from an acre or less to several thousand acres
  - Can be individual family farms or a group of farms
  - Tend to be larger than towns
    - Most towns and villages are contained within a

    - Often, though not always, with the same name
      In a few cases townlands may be contained
      within the boundaries of a town

#### **JURISDICTIONS**



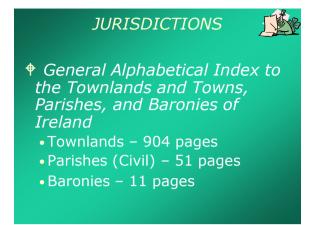
- † Townlands
  - Many townlands take their names from physical characteristics of an area such as ruins of churches and forts and from clan
  - Frequently several separate townlands have the same name
    - Examples: there are 56 Kilmores and 47
  - So you usually will need to know at least the county, and preferably the parish, to identify a townland unambiguously

#### **JURISDICTIONS**

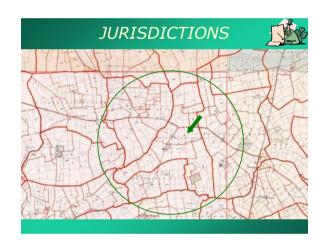


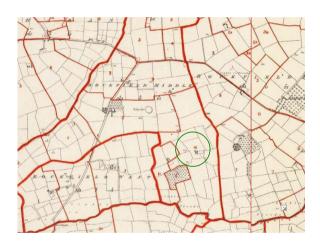
♦ Townlands – Useful Source for Names & Locations

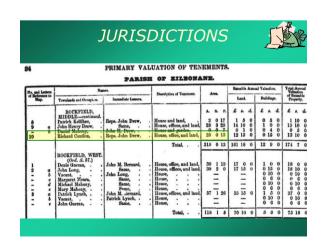
General Alphabetical Index to the Townlands and Towns, Parishes, and Baronies of Ireland: Based on the Census of Ireland for the Year 1851. [@ Waterford]













# IRISH IN CANADA



- Started in Earnest After 1815
- Major Ports of Arrival
  - Quebec, Que.
  - Saint John, N.B.
  - Halifax, N.S.
- No Official Arrival Records Prior to 1865

#### IRISH IN CANADA



- Major Problems
  - Records are Scattered
    - National Archives
    - Provincial Archives
    - Local Repositories
  - Meager Indexing

#### IRISH IN THE **MARITIMES**



- Limited Numbers in Late 18th & Early 19th Centuries
  - Many Moved to U.S.
    - Walked Down Maine's Coast
  - Anti-Irish Hostility in Region

# IRISH IN QUEBEC



- Urban Settlement the Norm
- Rural Settlements
  - Settled on Frontier
- Group Settlement -- Rare
- + History
  - Grosse Isle http://gail25.tripod.com/grosse.htm
  - http://gail25.tripod.com/que2.htm
  - http://gail25.tripod.com/que4.htm

# IRISH IN CANADA



- Use the MII
  - Miscellaneous Immigration Index (National Archives of Canada [NAC])
  - Relate Mainly to Immigrants from the British Isles to Quebec and Ontario 1801-1849

    - Name
    - Age
    - Country of OriginDate of Arrival

    - Name of Ship (sometimes)

    - Number of Family MembersIntended Place of Residence

# IRISH IN CANADA



- Use the MII Online
  - http://www.inGeneas.com
    - Includes Passenger List and Immigration Records and Associated Records
    - •Free Search
    - Charge for Providing Abstracts of Records

# IRISH IN CANADA



- Montreal Emigrant Society Passenger Book (NLC)
  - http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/ archivianet/mes/index-e.html

    - The Society was Founded in 1831

      Main purpose was to provide transportation for immigrants who had arrived at Montreal from Quebec City and were destined for settlement in different parts of Lower Canada (Quebec) and Upper Canada
    - 1,945 People in Database
    - May 12 to Nov 5, 1832

## IRISH IN CANADA



- Assisted Emigration Records
- Emigrated with Aid of British Government
- Lists Date from 1817 to 1831
- NAC Manuscript Group 11Film reel C-4252
- Not Included in the NAC MII
- Based on British Colonial Office RG
- BCO RG 384 Includes Additional Records to those in NAC MII

# IRISH IN CANADA



- Canada Company Records
- @ Archives of Ontario
  - Formed in 1824
  - Many Large Parcels -- One-seventh of Ontario
  - Additional 1,000,000 acre Huron Tract
  - Ruth Holt & Margaret Williams, Genealogical Extractions and Index of the Canada Company Remittance Books, 1843-1847. 3 vols. (1990)

# IRISH IN ONTARIO



- + Peter Robinson Settlers (Predominantly Catholic)
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Group
    - Emigrated in 1823
    - •586 People
    - Settled in Bathurst District (Ottawa Valley)

# IRISH IN ONTARIO



- Peter Robinson Settlers (con't)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Group
  - Emigrated in 1825
  - 2,024 People
  - Settled in Newcastle District (Peterborough area)
- Names Included in NAC MII
- Carol Bennett, Peter Robinson's Settlers (1987)

# IRISH IN ONTARIO



- McCabe List
  - 1829 Construction Workers' Petition Requested Assistance Bringing Impoverished Relatives to Canada
  - Contains Genealogical Data
  - British Colonial Office series 384/22
- Bruce S. Elliott, The McCabe List: Early Irish in the Ottawa Valley

# IRISH IN ONTARIO



- County Down Immigration Chain
  - Dates 19<sup>th</sup> Century
  - 100+ Families
  - Ards Peninsula of County Down
  - Settled on Amherst Island near Kingston, Ont
  - Catharine Anne Wilson, A New Lease on Life: Landlords, Tenants, and Immigrants in Ireland and Canada (1994)

# IRISH IN ONTARIO



- County Tipperary Immigration Chain
  - Emigrated Between 1815 and 1855
  - 775 Protestant Families
  - From North Tipperary
  - Settled in Carleton and Middlesex Counties, Ont.
  - Bruce S. Elliott, Irish Migrants in the Canadas: A New Approach (1988)

# IRISH IN ONTARIO



- Cemeteries
  - Birth Dates & Death Dates
  - Place of Birth
- Ontario Cemetery Finding Aid (www.islandnet.com/ocfa/ homepage.html)



# HEAD STONE INSCRIPTION



Thomas Cantlon Died 13 Mar. 1862 Aged 70 Years A Native of Listry, Co. Kerry, Ireland Ellen Conner His Wife Died 26th Mar. 1863 Aged 65 Years

# IRISH IN CANADA



- \*Locate in Canadian Census
  - Religion & Ethnicity Listed Beginning in 1851
  - Some Missing Returns for 1841 & 1851

# IRISH IN CANADA



- Locate in Census
  - FamilySearch.org
  - Library & Archives Canada
    - index-e.html
  - Ancestry.com
    - Incomplete Indexing
      - Ontario & Nova Scotia, 1800-1842
    - Check Catalogs of Major Libraries
  - Major Index for 1871 (OGS)
    - http://xcat.stauffer.gueenssu.ca/

#### TRISH IN U.S.



- Good Technique Essential
- Researcher's Question: How Do I Get Back To Ireland?
  - Emigrated 1810-1812
    - Dead Zone For U.S. Records
    - Census Not Very Helpful
  - Ancestor Traced To The Present
    - Parents & Siblings Not Traced Went

# IRISH IN U.S.



- Special Sources
  - The Search for Missing Friends: Irish Immigrant Advertisements Placed in the Boston Pilot, 1831-1920 (NEHGS, 8 vols. & CD-ROM)
  - DeGrazia, Laura Murphy. Irish Relatives and Friends From "Information Wanted" Ads in the Irish-American, 1850-1871

### IRISH IN U.S.



- Special Sources
  - Duncan, Mary. Passage to America, 1851-1869: The Records of Richard Elliott, Passenger Agent, Detroit, Michigan
  - Irish Gen. Soc. Of Michigan. Our Roots Began in Ireland...: An Irish Surname Registry

## IRISH IN U.S.



- Special Sources
  - Employ City Directories Determine Catholic Churches in Neighborhood Esp. Irish Catholic
  - Tombstone Inscriptions
    - Determine Irish Cemeteries In Area
    - Search WorldCat or FamilySearch.org Catalog for **Transcriptions**

## IRISH SOURCES



- Once You've Found an Irish Location
- Some Basic Sources to Use
  - Census Records
  - Census Substitutes
  - Church Records
  - Civil Registration
  - Estate Records
  - Wills & Administrations

# CENSUS RECORDS



- **†** 1821, 1831, 1841, 1851
  - Destroyed In 1922 Fire
- † 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891
  - Scrapped After Statistics Compiled
  - British Government Thought Duplicates Existed (as in G.B.)
- † 1901 & 1911 Available on Microfilm

# CENSUS RECORDS



- † 1901 & 1911 Available on Microfilm
  - @ National Archives of **Ireland**
  - @ LDS
  - Digitizing in Progress

# CENSUS RECORDS



- † 1821 to 1851 Fragments
- Some Escaped Destruction
  - •1831 County Londonderry Transcript @ FHL (mf)
  - •1821 County Cavan Transcript @ FHL (mf)

# CENSUS RECORDS



- Fragment Lists
  - No Comprehensive List
  - Check Standard Books
    - James G. Ryan, Irish Records
    - John Grenham, Tracing Your Irish Ancestors
    - Maire MacConghail, Tracing Irish Ancestors

# CENSUS RECORDS



- Fragment Lists
  - Other Places To Check
    - Register of Irish Census and Census Substitutes @ FHL only
    - "County Focus" articles in The Irish At Home and Abroad: A Newsletter of Irish Genealogy and Heritage
      - Library of Michigan, v. 1; v.4-6
      - Allen County Public Library

# RELIGIONS CENSUS



- Check Catholic Parish Registers
  - Sometimes Found There
- † Included In Church Records Of Many Denominations
- No Listings Complied

#### CENSUS SUBSTITUTES



- Tithe Applotment (1823-1838)
  - Useful for Famine Immigrants
  - Hand Written Not Printed
  - Guide to Tithe Records (Belfast: PRONI, 1994)
  - Burton Historical Collection Owns 130 Reels of Microfilm



#### TITHE APPLOTMENT - KILBONANE



- † Thomas Cantlon 21
- Cornelius Connor 29
- John Drew 3
- † Thomas Sheehan 2
- Daniel McGillycuddy 2
- James Mard 16
- † Timothy Mard same
- John Lean 7
- Daniel Myry 8
- William Thompson 22
- Darby Connor 20
- † Timothy Connor same
- John Almer Sr 46
- John Almer Jr 30

#### **CENSUS SUBSTITUTES**



- † 1796 Spinning Wheel Survey
  - Surname Index for the 1796 Spinning Wheel Premium Entitlement Lists of Ireland (All-Ireland Heritage, 1986) [microfiche]
  - Available Online & CD-ROM

#### **CENSUS SUBSTITUTES**



- Church of Ireland Returns of Householders (1766)
  - Janet Reakes, An Index to the 1766 Religious Census of Ireland (Australia's Immigration and Family History Centre, 1995) [microfiche]
- Protestant Householders (1740)
- + Hearth Money Rolls (1663-1669)

#### **CENSUS SUBSTITUTES**



- Census Searches for Old AgePension Applications & Form 37s
  - Pensions Introduced in 1908
  - Aided Qualification for Pensions
  - People 70 and Older
  - 1841 & 1851 Censuses
  - Abstracts Often Included Entire Family
  - Arranged By County, Barony, Civil Parish & Townland

#### **CENSUS SUBSTITUTES**



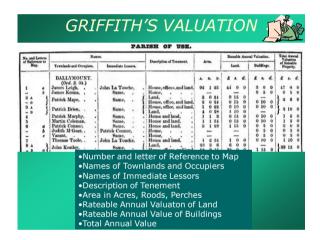
- Catholic Qualification Rolls
  - Starting In 1774 Catholics Able To Take Oath Of Allegiance To Crown
  - Starting In 1778 The Oath Gave Catholics Certain Rights
  - - Microfilm @ FHL

#### **CENSUS SUBSTITUTES**



- Griffith's Valuation
  - Major 19<sup>th</sup> Century Substitute
  - Griffith's Primary Valuation of Rateable Property in Ireland, 1848-1864 (Irish Microfilms, 1978)
  - Index to Griffith's Valuation of Ireland, 1848-1864 [CD-ROM]
  - Askaboutireland.ie

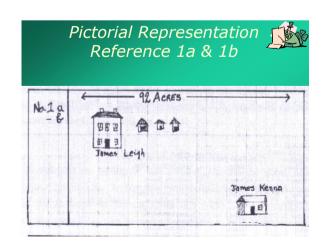
# COUNTY OF KILDARE. BARONY C. NARRAGH AND REBAN, EAST. UNION OF NAAS. Particle of Sept. A state of Sept. Date of Sept. Da

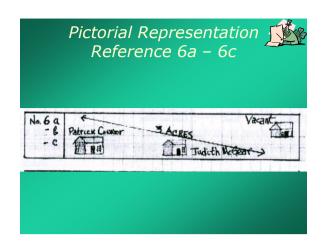


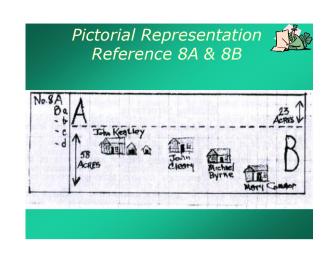
#### **GRIFFITH'S VALUATON**

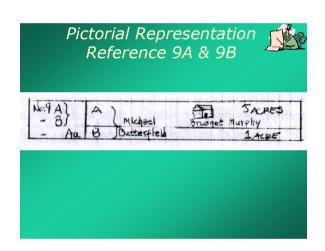


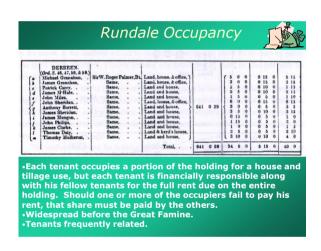
- \*Number & Letter of Reference Map
- **†**Names of Townlands & Occupiers
- **†**Names of Immediate Lessors
- **†**Description of Tenement
- \*Area in Acres, Roods & Perches
- \*Rateable Annual Valuation of Land
- \*Rateable Annual Value of Buildings
- **†**Total Annual Value







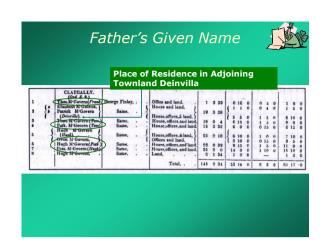






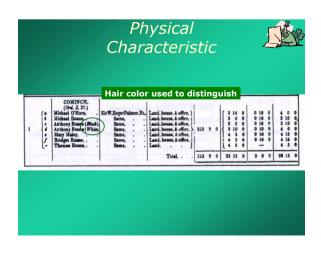


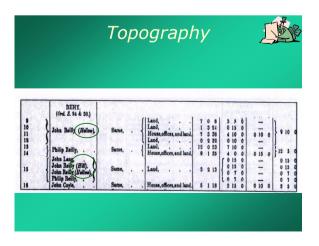








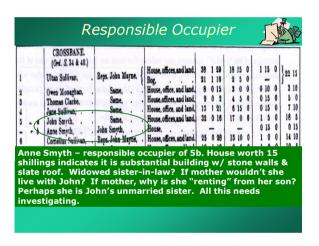




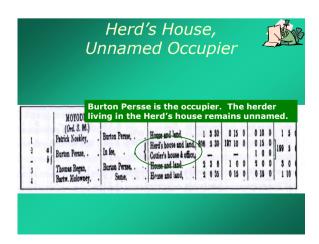


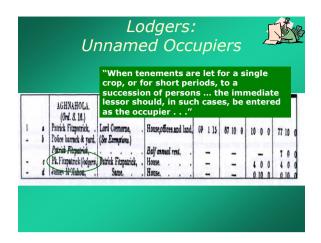




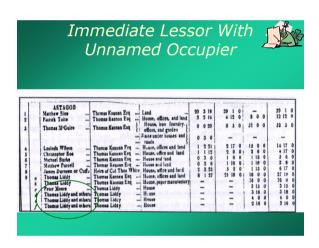


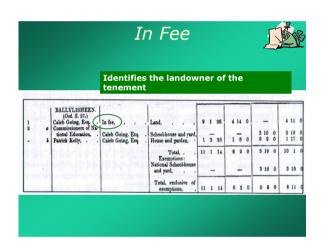


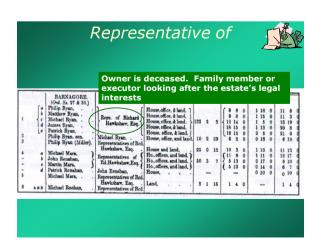


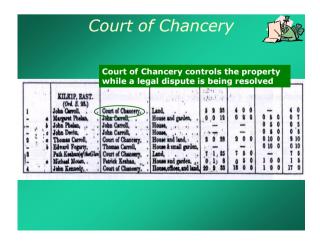






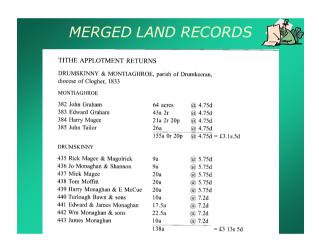




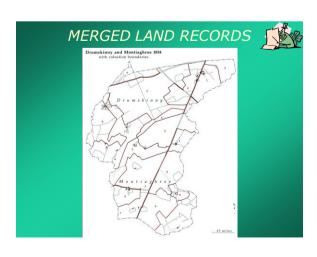


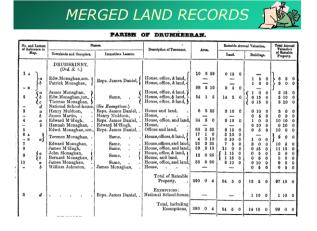


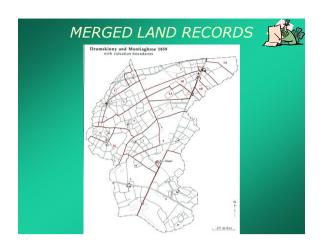












#### MERGED LAND RECORDS



- Trace Evolution of Family's Land Holdings
- Determine Family's Economic Situation
- Determine Relatives & Neighbors to Build Search Cluster
- Determine Location of Property

#### CHURCH RECORDS



- **†**Church of Ireland
  - Official, 1536 to 1871
  - Dioceses Recorded Wills, Administrations & Marriage Licenses Until 1858
  - Parish Registers
    - Many Destroyed In 1922
    - Some Copied Or Published Previously

# CHURCH RECORDS



- Presbyterian Church
  - Records Begin In Early 1800s
  - Most With Local Church
  - PRONI Has Extensive Microfilm Collection

# CHURCH RECORDS



- **†**Roman Catholic
  - Most Parish Registers Begin In Early 1800s
  - •NLI Has Most Registers (Until 1880) On Microfilm
    - •FHL Has Some Copies

## Civil Registration



- ♦Began In 1864
  - Births, Marriages, Deaths
  - Non-Catholic Marriages In 1845
  - Indexes For 1845 Through 1958@FHL On Microfilm
  - Must Know Superintendent Registrar's Districts
  - Some Indexing In IGI & Vital Records Index British Isles CD-ROM (LDS)

#### ESTATE RECORDS



- +Landlords Kept Detailed Records
  - Most People Lived On Estates
  - Locating Estate Papers
    - Determine Townland
    - Identify Landowner's Name & Title
    - Determine Repository Holding Papers
      - May Be Located In More Than One
    - Search Estate Papers
      - Look For Papers Covering Appropriate Time
      - Look For Papers Covering Appropriate Townland

#### ESTATE RECORDS



- **†**Types of Records
  - Leases
  - Rent Rolls
  - Estate Maps
  - Emigration Lists
  - Petitions To The Landowner
  - Wills
  - Deeds
  - Freeholders & Poll Lists
  - Mortgages
  - Eviction Records

# Wills & Administrations



- Wills Written Last Will and Testament – Probated by an Executor
- Estate Administrations For Those Who Left No Will
- Wealthy Left Wills
- Everyone Else Had Estate
   Administration

## Wills & Administrations



- Irish Probate Documents
- Admons with Will Attached
  - Produced when the Executor Named in the Will is Unable or Unwilling to Act as Executor
- *Inventories* List the Belongings of the Deceased Person
- Grant or Act Books Provide Day by Day Accounts of all Actions Taken in a Probate Court

# Wills & Administrations



- Prior to 1858 Under the Jurisdiction of the Church of Ireland
- After 1858 Under the Jurisdiction of District Registries

# Wills & Administrations



- Most Pre-1858 Probate
   Records Destroyed in the
   1922 Fire
  - Many Wills & Admons had been Indexed
  - Most Indexes Survived Fire
  - Microfilm Copies of the Indexes Available at LDS

# Wills & Administrations † Index of Irish Wills 1484-1858 seigned by genealogists, compiled by professional archivists, edited by storians, and using the very best search software available, this CD-ROM the first volume in a new series of sources for Irish genealogy. This first blume covers all 32 counties for this poorly documented period. It

#### **INTERNET SITES**



- Must Visits
  - www.genuki.org.uk/big/irl
    - UK + Ireland Genealogy
  - www.cyndislist.com
    - Cyndi's List
  - www.ireland.com/ancestor
    - Irish Ancestors On The Irish Times Web Site

# HERITAGE CENTERS



- **†**For Basic Information About Centers
  - http://www.irishgenealogical.org/ Irish\_Genealogical\_heritage\_centers
  - County History
  - Available Publications
  - Lists Records Indexed

# HERITAGE CENTERS



- Major Sources To Be Indexed
  - Pre-1922 Civil Birth, Marriage & **Death Registers**
  - Pre-1900 Church (All Faiths) Birth, Marriage & Burial Registers
  - Gravestone Inscriptions
  - 1901 Census
  - Griffith's Valuation
  - Tithe Applotment Books

# HERITAGE CENTERS Sample Report | Chebrane: | Soci U Sulhablaia | Chebrini Wats, | Ellisson, | Chebrini Wats, | Chebrini W The following appert in provided in good fields and the private sense in mily seed and to be relical appearance for any professional purpose in a seasoning of Devent, (address gives as Clath), was bapticed on the 1315/1875, the sporaces was Richard Caroline and Manners House, the Roy 1 Chall of Good Undersometry we fished to find a toppicated listing for inhame, this may be due to any one of a matther of factors, ranging from the possibility that the loops have was assessment in the Districtual Engineer, to the page of the register we larger here greater. We startched

# HERITAGE CENTERS



- **†**Assessment
  - For Their Areas The Databases Are Superior To Anything Else
  - Commercial Rates Charged
  - Good Way To Find Townland If You Know The County Of Origin

